

Jewish immigration drops to 75,000

TEL AVIV (AP) — About 75,000 Jews are expected to immigrate to Israel this year, including 63,500 from the former Soviet Union, a significant drop from the previous year, mainly reflecting a drop in Soviet immigrants, it said. The agency, which assists in bringing Jews to Israel, said 145,000 people arrived from the Soviet Union in 1991. Total immigration last year was 170,740. Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Diniz predicted that immigration would pick up again in 1993, with about 100,000 coming to Israel from the former Soviet Union. He said the Jewish Agency would help by stepping up its activities with young people. The wave of Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union began in the spring of 1989, when the Soviet Union relaxed exit rules. Soviet immigration to Israel peaked at about 105,000 in 1990, but has since slowed considerably because of high unemployment and housing problems in the Jewish state. About 4.2 million of the 5.1 million citizens of Israel are Jews. The rest are Christians, Muslims and Druze.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Court questions takeover of Arab homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli justice ministry said Monday Jewish settlers used "mistaken" claims in taking over several Palestinian homes in Arab East Jerusalem last year. In October 1991, armed settlers seized five homes in Silwan, an Arab village of 30,000 inhabitants beneath the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. Arab families disputed the settlers' ownership in Jerusalem district and magistrates' courts. Justice ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed said the Jerusalem district prosecutor had submitted documents to the court showing at least three houses were not "abandoned property" — the legal claim used by Jews to acquire property in Arab areas. Israel Radio said the sales might not now be cancelled or the Arab families compensated. Settlers have used property laws that term a large number of Arab houses as "abandoned," legal subterfuge and force to take over more than 50 houses in Arab East Jerusalem, most inside the walled Old City. The former hardline Likud government enthusiastically backed the settlers but Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has moved to curb such settlement.

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Jordan appeals to world bodies

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan's United Nations ambassador in Geneva Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf today voiced Jordan's rejection of Israel's repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories and condemned its violations of human rights and Geneva Conventions which call for protecting civilians at times of war under occupation. In meetings with officials from the Human Rights Committee and the Human Rights Centre in Geneva, Fawwaz called on the international community to force Israel to implement these conventions. Israel last week expelled more than 400 Palestinians to Lebanon. Sharif Fawwaz sent a letter to the chairman of the Human Rights Committee in Geneva calling on him to condemn the deportation and pressure Israel to rescind its decision.

Guerrillas rocket Israel's ally

BEIRUT (Lebanon R) — Guerrillas fired rockets at a post of Israel's militia allies in Lebanon Monday and the militia fired back with artillery, security sources said. They said the guerrillas fired several rockets at the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia post in the area of the "security zone." Artillery opened up at the militia's rocket fire. There was word on casualties on both sides. Israeli artillery fired at the militia and SLA positions in Shoumarieh after spotting guerrillas there. No-one was reported hurt. A few Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire.

Protest staged in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Scores of demonstrators demonstrated Monday in support of the 415 Palestinian refugees expelled from Lebanon and after they were expelled by Jewish state. The protesters gathered in Khartoum where they held a petition asking the U.N. Security Council to demand Israel to discontinue its policy of expelling Palestinians. Demonstrators in Khartoum held signs saying "The liberation has started" and "Unity of the Arab world... beginning of liberation." Representatives of the headquarters of the International Arab Islamic Popular Front, a regional organization that coordinates activities of Islamic groups, is headed by Hassan Al Turabi, a Muslim fundamentalist leader who is considered to be the real power behind the Arab League. The Palestinians held a letter to Dr. Turabi saying "Jihad and armed struggle are the only paths for purging sacred land."

U.N. to seek rerun vote

BEIRUT (R) — Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Panic, during irregularities in Serbian presidential elections Sunday, seek a rerun of the ballot in 90 days. One of his aides in Tanjing news agency Monday said the first official returns from the election commission were outgoing President Stojan Milosevic leading Mr. Panic in the elections on Sunday. Panic is on course for a first round victory (see page 5). In Tanjing the Panic camp had cited irregularities and would go to an official appeal against the election.

Iran smugglers fined 70 million

TEHRAN (R) — A court has fined several people 400 billion (\$270 million) for trying to smuggle a hoard of antiquities out of Iran. Kayhan newspaper said today. It quoted Tehran's Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor General Raeesi as saying police had seized several people and a huge collection of precious objects, some stolen from museums. "All the plundered objects and precious objects are confiscated and handed over to the national heritage organization," it quoted Mr. Raeesi as saying.

Israelis, allies block expelled Palestinians from returning home

2 wounded in S. Lebanon confrontation; 10-year-old shot dead in West Bank

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers and their militia allies prevented 415 Palestinians expelled by Israel from returning to their homes Monday with machinegun fire and artillery. Two Palestinians were wounded.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Boutros urged the U.N. Security Council to "impose clear sanctions on Israel" for expelling the Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories and reiterated Lebanon's refusal to accept them.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, vowing to block the return of the expelled Palestinians, said he had no pity for the 415 men stranded between Israeli and Lebanese troops.

Israeli soldiers and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen twice fired a hail of warning shots at the Palestinians as they were pushed back towards Israeli lines by the Lebanese army.

Mr. Rabin, speaking in parliament, conceded conditions were harsh for the Palestinians expelled with only a coat, a blanket and \$50 each into freezing conditions last Thursday night.

But, defending the unprecedented expulsions of alleged Islamic activists and rejecting foreign criticism, Mr. Rabin said: "There is no pity in my heart for them."

Mr. Rabin said it was up to Lebanon to take in the 415 men dumped across the Israeli lines. He portrayed the confrontation Monday as a propaganda struggle.

"Our position is firm. We will not allow them to return," he said. The Israeli high court delayed until at least Tuesday a ruling on appeals against the expulsions by civil rights lawyers. The lawyers argued the Palestinians were dumped in South Lebanon before they could appeal against the expulsions.

Extra troops flew to Israel's northern border by helicopter and then crossed into the "security zone," patrolled by Israelis and the SLA, security sources said.

"There were attempts to move forward by the deportees toward the security zone," said the army. "These attempts were stopped with the advance of Israeli and SLA forces."

Israel denied its troops fired but would not comment on SLA shooting at the Zembra checkpoint to prevent the Palestinians entering the "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Reporters at the crossing said the SLA lobbed mortar bombs pushed back towards Israeli lines by the Lebanese army.

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Palestinians carry one of their comrades wounded in gunfire from Israeli soldiers and their allies in South Lebanon in a confrontation Monday (AFP photo)

Gulf leaders gather in Abu Dhabi for summit

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries assembled Monday in Abu Dhabi for their annual summit in hope they were putting internal rivalries aside to confront other issues.

On Sunday, Qatar and Saudi Arabia announced agreement on a border dispute after Egyptian mediation, ending Qatar's three-month boycott of the GCC.

Conference sources said the leaders were to seek means of smoothing over difficulties hindering good relations with Iran and warding off what they described as the Iraqi menace.

Ways of buttressing combined defences and broadening the scope of economic cooperation topped the agenda, they said.

"The Saudi-Qatar dispute was a severe shock to the GCC," United Arab Emirates (UAE) Under-Secretary for Information Abdullah Aman said in an interview.

"It came at an odd time for us. Now that it is out of the way, we can justifiably look forward to a successful summit which, in essence, will be a rebirth of the GCC," he said.

The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, said upon arrival: "I am confident that our summit will succeed with the help of God in achieving the results that will deepen our unity and strengthen brotherly links that unite us to achieve what our countries and peoples aspire for."

U.S. officials said Mohammed Farah Aided had moved his headquarters out of the southern part of the city Monday and his chief rival, Ali Mahdi Mohammad, would move his from the north Tuesday.

"It's a Somali operation, aimed at bringing Mogadishu back to what it was before the civil war," one U.S. official said.

He said freelance bandits or factions not aligned with General Aided or Mr. Ali Mahdi would be told via radio and newspaper announcements to get their technicals out of town fast.

U.S.-led coalition forces would play no direct role in the operation. But they had been informed of the routes and times when the militia vehicles would move to locations just outside the city.

"The one thing we want to avoid is a confrontation," the U.S. official said.

Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aided agreed on Dec. 11 to move "all forces and their technicals" outside Mogadishu as part of a seven-point peace plan reached two days after the multinational force reached Somalia to secure relief routes for the starving.

In what has become a familiar pattern, troops of Operation Restore Hope seized another city without opposition but came under fire in two cities they had taken earlier.

U.S. Marines and Belgian paratroopers Sunday took control of the port and airport in the southern city of Kismayu, reopening an important gateway for food shipments to this ravaged country.

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Government reports its compliance with House's decisions on Audit Bureau

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has informed the Lower House of Parliament that the government has taken appropriate and effective measures to implement recommendations by the House's Financial Committee to solve problems facing the Audit Bureau and safeguard public funds and improve management of state finances.

In a letter to House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the prime minister said the government had honored its commitments to the House made in the previous Parliament session and had also embarked on studies designed to introduce amendments to legislation related to the work of the Audit Bureau in the light of a Parliament debate about the bureau's work during the extraordinary session last summer.

In September of this year, Sharif Zeid said, he circulated to various departments the House committee's recommendations and urged them to take administrative measures to conform to the House resolutions and recommendations and to avert further violations and financial excesses.

So far the government departments have achieved a great deal in handling these issues with the help of the newly-established Office for Administrative Inspection and Control, the prime minister said.

He said that the Finance Ministry has been entrusted with the task of working out a unified system for government purchases and another for the collection of state funds.

The Finance Ministry will also (Continued on page 5)

U.N. sending more guards to protect Iraq aid trucks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations announced Monday that additional U.N. guards will be sent to protect truck convoys carrying aid to Iraqi Kurds from bombs and mines that have been attached to the vehicles.

The new guards will be sent to two checkpoints at Fibar and Kahzar, said U.N. spokesman Joe Sills.

The checkpoints are in Iraq, and the United Nations has asked Baghdad for visas for the new guards, Mr. Sills said.

The World Food Programme (WFP) Friday announced a temporary halt to the winter relief programme for the Iraqi Kurds after several Turkish trucks carrying relief supplies were damaged by bombs.

WFP spokesman Francis Mwanza said in Rome Friday that 71 trucks had been held in Bohuk, northern Iraq, while the U.N. secretary-general's office considered the programme's request for more security.

The suspension came in response to the third series of bomb attacks on Turkish trucks in three weeks. On Wednesday eight trucks were blown up by the bombs and bombs were defused on nine others, Mr. Mwanza said.

Some 410 trucks in 25 convoys had made it safely into northern Iraq, carrying over 8,000 tonnes of food, and other supplies, Mr. Sills said.

Iraqi Kurdish officials have said the trucks had been booby-trapped after their drivers were taken away for questioning at an Iraqi checkpoint at Fibar. The drivers were returning after unloading supplies in the Kurdish-held part of northern Iraq.

Rescue workers were searching through the scorched mid section and tail of the plane, which was still clouded in smoke by mid-afternoon.

Forty-two survivors were at the Hotel Ibis in Faro. The pilot, whose name was not immediately available, was among those who survived the crash of the three-engine McDonnell Douglas jet, Dutch embassy spokeswoman Theda van Royen said in Lisbon.

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Teenager recalls ordeal after Israeli roundup

MARI AL ZOHOUR (AP) — Bassam Siouri, 17, the youngest of 415 Palestinians Israeli expelled to Lebanon, wept when he recalled the night he was dragged from his home in Hebron by Israeli security men from his home in Hebron in the occupied West Bank.

"Mom made us a supper of soup and fried chicken liver and then two hours later the Israelis pulled me out of bed and deported me," said Siouri, a shoe factory worker.

"I was taken by a guy known as Capt. Adib, who's in charge of security in Hebron. He told me I was needed for five minutes and he'd bring me back home," he recalled.

Capt. Adib "assured by father, Salim, that there was no need for him to accompany me and that I'd return home soon," he recalled.

But he and the other detainees rounded up were "blindfolded and handcuffed and left standing in the rain for two hours" at a collection centre in Hebron.

"They loaded 30 of us on a bus and drove us to Dahiyeh prison near Hebron where we joined the others who'd been arrested," Siouri said.

The shock of his arrest has not worn off and the freckle faced lad was exhausted and hungry as he and the other alleged activists of Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic movement, shivered in an area between Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon and government-controlled Lebanese territory.

They were rounded up Dec. 14 in a dragnet after Hamas kidnapped and killed an Israeli border guard, the sixth Israeli slain by the faction in eight days.

"I'm not a member of Hamas," Siouri protested. "I've nothing to do with politics. I only go to the mosque to pray. I'm worshipping God a crime now?"

Sitting in the makeshift tent city in the desolate land the hapless Palestinians have dubbed the "Jerusalem Camp for a Rapid Return," the young man greedily chewed on bread and cheese, his first meal in more than three days.

The teenager is known to the other Palestinians as "The Kid." His misery is worsened by a urinary tract infection "because the Israeli guards prevented us from urinating properly for three days."

Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a physician who headed the Islamic Hospital in Gaza City and is now the Palestinian spokesman, said most of the men are "suffering from a variety of urinary tract infections."

Mr. Siouri said that in the Hebron prison, "the guards beat us with clubs, kicked us and spat in our faces."

"Then strangely, they offered us water. We didn't realise what that was all about and we drank," he said.

"But they were just torturing us because when they loaded us on the buses after that, with our hands and feet cuffed, they wouldn't let us go to the toilet."

"I asked one guard to let me go to the toilet (Hebrew for toilet), but he gave me a hell of a beating on my back as we were driven to northern Israel."

"I tried to hold myself in, but I kept wetting my pants."

Finally, he said, "I couldn't take it any more. I started banging my head against the window. I almost fainted."

"A guard ordered the driver to pull over and took me out to urinate," Mr. Siouri said, rubbing his bloodshot eyes.

"With my hands cuffed behind my back, my feet cuffed and the guard constantly hitting me on the back of my neck, there was no way I could unzip my trousers," Mr. Siouri said, his voice choking with emotion.

A bearded Palestinian sitting on a nearby rock shouted: "Don't get so upset about it kid. Big men did it too."

Back in the bus, Mr. Siouri said, guards offered the blindfolded Palestinians tomatoes and bread.

"I refused," he said. "Knowing what happened after they gave us water to drink, I didn't want to have more problems with my bowels."



Some of the 415 Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories by Israel wash in a spring in an area between Lebanese and Israeli checkpoints in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Iran 'studying' top-level meeting with Egypt

NICOSIA (R) — A Tehran newspaper said Monday Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was considering a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa.

Iran and Egypt have been engaged in a sharp war of words in recent months. Cairo has accused Tehran of fomenting Muslim fundamentalist unrest in Egypt and other Arab countries.

The Tehran Times quoted a "high-level source" at Iran's Foreign Ministry as saying Mr. Velayati was "seriously considering" taking up the offer of a meeting with Mr. Musa.

"The two nations of Iran and Egypt have a long history of friendly and brotherly relations," the paper, which is considered close to the ministry, quoted the source as saying.

Mr. Musa two weeks ago reiterated Cairo's vow to resist any Iranian threat to Arab national security, but said it wanted dialogue with Iran.

"We call on Iran for dialogue based on healthy foundations by abandoning its intervention in the internal affairs of other states and

giving up its policy of hegemony and imperial dreams," he said.

Egypt's attacks played up Iran's dispute with the United Arab Emirates over three Gulf islands, seen by Arabs as a sign of Iranian expansionism in the region.

Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini cut Tehran's relations with Cairo in 1979 after Egypt became the first Arab country to make peace with Israel.

Tehran responded to Cairo's recent charges of exporting fundamentalism by accusing Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak of trying to lead other Arab governments into compromise with Israel through U.S.-organised Middle East peace talks.

Iran under President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani made tentative moves at a limited improvement in relations with Egypt.

But hardliners oppose any restoration of diplomatic ties, saying there had been no change in the basic situation leading to the breach.

Rockets kill 10, injure 16 in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Three shells slammed into a crowded bazaar in the Afghan capital Kabul Monday, killing at least 10 people and injuring 16, eyewitnesses said.

At least two children were among the dead, said government soldier Anwar Shah, who carried three of the bodies to a nearby checkpoint.

Pools of blood stained streets around the usually busy bazaar in central Kabul after hundreds of morning shoppers fled in panic from the attack.

It was not known who fired the shells, but Shah said fighting had erupted early Monday between government forces and fighters of the former communist militia.

The two groups have been allies since the militia defected to the Mujahedeen toppled the ex-communist government last April.

Witnesses said at least 10 people were killed in the attack and 16 injured, some seriously.

Streets in the city were deserted, shop windows shattered, and bloodstained shoes and empty baskets scattered around the bazaar. Kebab sellers ran from their stalls, leaving the meat still roasting.

It was the worst such attack on Kabul since bloody fighting last August between the government and a maverick Mujahedeen party, when thousands of rockets and artillery shells rained down on the city killing more than 2,500 people.

"I am so afraid," said 16-year-old Masoom, as he wandered through the empty streets looking for his brother who was at the bazaar at the time of the attack.

At the Interior Ministry, some 1,000 delegates to the Hal-o-Aqad assembly, which is to choose Afghanistan's first elected president since the 1979 Soviet invasion, gathered for a second introductory session.

Algerian troops battle armed group

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces fought a nine-hour battle with gunmen in a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold near Algiers, the official news agency AFS said on Monday.

No casualty figures were immediately available but AFS reported "deaths and wounded" in the operation in the town of Blida Sunday night.

"An important armed group has reportedly been neutralised," after repeated assaults lasting nine hours until 1 a.m., the agency said.

It reported heavy gunfire and explosions during the battle in Blida, army headquarters for the military district that includes the capital Algiers and a noted stronghold of Muslim militants.

Part of Blida was completely cordoned off by the security forces, AFS said.

The authorities have recently stepped up their battle to crush Islamic fundamentalists, blamed for killing about 200 members of the security forces since last February.

The army-backed government clamped a 10:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew on Algiers and six nearby districts, including Blida, two weeks ago.

Early last week, security forces killed 13 fundamentalists in a triple sweep in mountains near Algiers and in two eastern suburbs.

On Sunday, five men shot dead a para-military gendarme and his father-in-law in the town of Ksar Al Boukhari, 110 kilometres south of Algiers, Algiers Radio said.

The "terrorists, the official term for Muslim fundamentalists, fled in a vehicle."

On Monday afternoon at least 50 soldiers still ringed the partly built house in Blida where the battle took place.

Three military lorries and jeeps were parked nearby. Journalists were kept at least 200 metres away.

A missile had apparently punched a big blackened hole into the building.

An 18-year-old student from a nearby school said: "I live eight kilometres from here and we could hear shooting and explosions at home during the night."

The owner of nearby hotel said shooting started about 2 p.m. on Sunday and lasted until after midnight.

Shopkeepers near the house said the authorities told them to close about an hour before the shooting started.

"Even (Abassi) Madani could have heard the explosions in prison," he joked.

Mr. Madani headed the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, which the government blames for most political violence.

Saudi King Fahd warns foreign-influenced crisis

ABU DHABI (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has warned that his country would not remain silent in the face of foreign-influenced citizens using mosques to criticise his government.

In a meeting with Muslim clergy and theologians, the king strongly criticised the recent use of mosques and the circulation of cassette tapes to attack the government.

"I do not believe that the state allows this or will not put limits to it," the king said in his meeting Saturday night in the Holy City of Medina. "I wish that the limits be implemented."

"We should not follow in the path of foreign currents, foreign to our country," the official Saudi Press Agency quoted him Monday as saying.

Diplomats in the region have said an anti-government fundamentalist Islamic trend has been active in the conservative kingdom since the eruption of the Gulf crisis in 1990.

There have also been calls for the formation of an elected consultative council to oversee day to day running of state affairs.

The king, whose country is the world's largest oil exporter, ordered the formation of an appointed consultative council to oversee day to day running of state affairs.

"Two years ago we were seeing things in our country which were not ours," he said. "We are not to be misled by those who are not from our country and who are not of our religion."

"I am not referring to the backing critics of our government. It is to be those who are not from our country and who are not of our religion."

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

British aid to build girls' school in W. B.

AMMAN (I.T.) — A Palestinian girls' school on the occupied West Bank is to be built and equipped with a \$250 million grant from the Overseas Development Administration money will be channelled through the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA). The need for schools and particularly education for girls is enormous on the West Bank which has a scale refugee problem, a British embassy press release said. It has worsened since the Gulf war and there have also been school closures in the occupied territories. "It is a sad accommodation where it exists is of poor quality, not purpose and grossly overcrowded and ill-equipped. A two shift opening often used to try and accommodate all pupils needing education. The new school forms part of UNRWA's programme for Palestinian refugees in the Near East which provides vital assistance for refugees in the area."

Bashir: No military confrontation with Egypt

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military leader Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir said Sunday his country's intention to provoke a military confrontation with Egypt is a border dispute between them. "We have told them (the Egyptians) that no harm will befall you from the Sudanese and no bullet will be fired from the Sudanese against your brother Egypt," Gen. Bashir told a rally in Khartoum. Relations between Sudan and its northern neighbour have been strained over ownership of the Halaib border strip and Egyptian accusations Sudan is arming anti-government Muslim extremists and setting training camps for them. Gen. Bashir said he "challenges anyone who has proof about camps in Sudan for terrorists from any place" was apparently responding to Egyptian President Mubarak's latest accusations made Wednesday. Mr. Mubarak had said that despite denial by Sudanese officials he has proof the camps exist and warned Sudan against the consequences. A month ago Egypt reinforced border posts along the border Sudan because of tension over Halaib and to stop any smuggling weapons across the border.

Yemeni minister says 15 killed in past riots

SANAA (R) — Yemeni Interior and Security Minister Gen. Mottaher Al-Qamash said Sunday 15 people were killed in riots that engulfed six Yemeni towns including capital Sanaa earlier this month. The figures were given in testimony to parliament, which has been looking into the riots, the worst disorders to hit Yemen since the North and South merged in 1990. Sanaa Television quoted Mr. Qamash as saying 661 people were arrested. Previous official figures reported people killed, 90 injured and less than 300 arrested. Handful shops and government buildings were damaged or looted in riots which started on Dec. 9 and continued for four days.

Group calls for more political freedom in Gulf

ABU DHABI (R) — Democrats urged leaders of a Gulf Arab alliance Sunday to widen political freedoms in the region in which political parties are banned.

The Gulf National Forum (GNF) said in a statement addressed to a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit opening in Abu Dhabi Monday that Gulf citizens would like to have a bigger political role and more public freedoms.

"We appeal to the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council to work towards further unity in the Gulf and to develop political institutions to ensure full rule of law, political participation, wider public freedoms and protection of human rights," it said.

The GNF made a copy of the letter available to Reuters. GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara said he had not

seen the appeal when asked at a news conference.

But he defended the political systems in GCC states saying they were well suited to the region.

"We have a record we are proud of," he said.

"If you are speaking of a Western model, then you can take issue with me," he told a Western reporter.

The forum was set up in May by 100 academics, businessmen and professional people from Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to promote and defend human rights, democracy and basic freedoms in the six Gulf states.

The statement, delivered to GCC officials in Abu Dhabi, said Gulf nationals were disappointed with the slow pace of GCC efforts to settle political and social prob-

lems.

"We cannot ignore the disappointment of Gulf citizens with the slowness of the GCC in solving...border disputes."

"And social problems like that of stateless Arabs, those deported from their countries, the citizens who are prevented from travelling and increasing cases of discrimination and oppression against people because of their race or ideological beliefs," the statement said.

"The governments of the Gulf are called upon to take all measures to protect the rights of citizens and residents based on international law. They are also called upon to increase the proportion of Gulf nationals in the workforce and give Gulf women a role in public and national life," it said.

Women have no political rights in the strict Islamic societies of the Gulf although educated women are starting to rise in government service and the professions in more liberal states like Kuwait and Bahrain.

The forum is the first such Gulf-wide group. It says it will only use peaceful and overt means to achieve its aims. Since the Gulf war several states in the region have taken steps towards greater popular political participation, most notably Kuwait, which held parliamentary elections in October. Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa Sunday issued a decree setting up a consultative assembly to give Bahrainis a greater say in the running of the state. Saudi Arabia announced the creation of a consultative council in March, but its members have yet to be chosen.

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JORDAN TELEVISION	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Michael Vaillant
18:30	La Famille Ramadan
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varities
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Golden Girls
21:30	Multigri
22:00	News in English
Feature Film: "The Ambassador's Daughter"	
PRAYER TIMES	
05:00	Fajr
06:27	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:34	Dhuhr
14:18	'Asr
16:40	Maghrib
18:40	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 510740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
St. Basil Church Tel. 661757	
Terrestrial Church Tel. 622360	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623511	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623634, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 676591	
Church of the Redeemer ... Tel. 638526	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
It will be partly cloudy and scattered rain is expected in the south and the northern parts of the Kingdom. As of Wednesday evening a polar cold front is expected to affect Jordan. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and rain is expected, and seas calm.	
Amman	Min./Max. temp. 04/11
Aqaba	06/17
Deserts	04/12
Jordan Valley	09/18
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 16. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Aqaba 56 per cent.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Hana Mansour	775197
Dr. Sabah Tawous	(-)
Dr. Mohammad Al Magri	730256
Dr. Mahmoud Al Hindi	898787
First pharmacy	651912
Ford's pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637063
Nakrouh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsani pharmacy	637660
Nakrouh pharmacy	624672
Najib pharmacy	647632
IRBID:	
Dr. Walid Ibrahim	244412
Akhdas pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Zaid Ju'um	(-)
Khalifeh pharmacy	585417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Roscoe	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	(92. 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
HOSPITALS	
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-5320
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
ZARQA:	
Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarga National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)999990
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Grace Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Al-Khali Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Melhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsani	664171/4
Shamsani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845945
Al-Mushter Hospital	667271/7
The Islamic, Abdali	666171/3
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah	775111/26
Army, Marfa	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	60240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

07:30	Dhahran (RJ)
09:15	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15	Aqaba (RJ)
09:45	Masra, Dubai (RJ)
10:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	London (RJ)
10:30	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
10:30	Cairo (RJ)
10:30	Frankfurt (RJ)
10:45	Rome (RJ)
10:45	Varna (RJ)
10:45	Danube (RJ)
21:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:40	Beirut, Pakistan
12:15	Larnaca, Vienna
17:45	Dubai (RJ)
01:30	Bucharest (RJ)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in \$/kg	
Apple	200/

Local councils to be exempted from 10 per cent of interest on state loans

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs Dr. Abdul Razzaq TUBEISHAT announced Monday that the Kingdom's Development Bank has decided to exempt local councils in the Kingdom from 10 per cent of the interest on state loans payable by them to the bank.

The minister said this measure aims to encourage local councils to take loans from the bank for their development projects and to help them in their efforts to improve the living standards of the people in their areas.

Dr. Tubeishat said the bank has previously granted similar measures which included exempting the grace period on loans from the interest on state loans. He said the bank has also granted similar measures to municipalities and local councils in the Kingdom.

The minister said that there were plans to hold a specialised seminar for the joint services councils in the Kingdom. The seminar, he said, will tackle issues such as protecting the environment, and improving council services. "The ministry intends also to organise a general conference for municipal councils in Jordan to study their conditions and activate their role in the field of protecting the environment and developing the local society," he said.

Dr. Tubeishat reviewed the main principles and policies of the ministry stressing that it was keen to preserve the independence of local councils and to give them more powers in accordance with existing legislations and laws. At the same time, he said, the ministry will keep monitoring the work of these councils and municipalities to make sure that they are abiding by law.

The minister, he said, emphasises the importance of joint services councils and he praised their work now that they have been restructured. He also pointed to the maintenance teams set up to work for small municipal and rural councils.

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Dr. Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat

dan's only outlet to the sea and as a tourist, industrial and commercial centre.

Aqaba's clean beaches and diverse coral reefs are affected by the city's intermediate industries and industrial exports, Mr. Majali said. The meeting was attended by Aqaba Mayor Ibrahim Abdul Jaz, the Cities and Villages Development Bank Director Zuhair Khalifeh, Secretary General of the Ministry Assem Ghoshah and Aqaba Region Authority Director Bassa Qaqish.

Arab police day celebrated

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab Police Day was celebrated in Jordan, Monday with a major ceremony attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein.

Held at the Palace of Culture in Amman, the Prince distributed memorial certificates to veteran and retired police officers and journalists covering police work. Prince Abdullah also distributed trophies to leaders of police units who won the annual inspection procedures and decorated a number of officers with badges in recognition of their distinguished efforts.

Brigadier Mohammad Basoul, the Public Security Director's (PSD) Inspector General outlined the development of the security forces over the past few years and the PSD's modernisation process at the administrative levels.

"Arab police day does not only entail an annual occasion but rather it is an opportunity to emphasise the noble work of the police force and to project the responsible duties of men and women entrusted with ensuring security for the community," said Brig. Basoul. He voiced appreciation to the PSD personnel for their continued efforts to ensure stability and security for the country.

Another speaker was Brigadier Mohammad Tarazi director of the PSD's public relations and moral guidance who said that by honouring the veteran police of Jordan, the PSD acknowledges their great sacrifice for the nation.

Dr. Mzan Abu Nowar, a retired PSD officer, delivered an address on behalf of the retired officers who noted the many achievements of the PSD over the past years.

On the eve of the anniversary, PSD Director General Fadel Ali stressed the important role of the country's police force in protecting the general public. "This day carries a message from the police headquarters to each and every policeman and woman urging them to double their efforts to uphold the values and the principles of the nation and to ensure the rule of law by word and deed," General Ali said in a statement faxed to the Jordan Times.

General Ali went on to outline the various function of the police force in Jordan, its development over the years, the PSD's various activities and training programmes and its ongoing efforts to incorporate modern technology into the police's work.

Following the ceremony, Prince Abdullah inspected an exhibition of PSD machinery and various equipment used in police work.



Prince Abdullah presents Yusef Al Allan a gift of merit for his photo journalism

women entrusted with ensuring security for the community," said Brig. Basoul. He voiced appreciation to the PSD personnel for their continued efforts to ensure stability and security for the country.

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Health and drugs workshop commences

AMMAN (Petra) — The establishment of a drug data base of drugs and the local situation of drugs in Jordan are the main topics being discussed in a four-day workshop on drugs in Amman Monday.

The workshop is an essential concept of use and control of drugs by the Health Ministry Department in Amman with the World Health Organization (WHO). The workshop is being attended by 50 health professionals employed in the Health Ministry in Amman.

The Ministry of Health places importance on basic drugs and the workshop is designed to provide information on the use of drugs and the responsibilities of health professionals in the use of drugs.

"Doctors, pharmacists and nurses complement one another's work and they all shoulder the responsibility for the nation's health," he said. Drugs that can only be dispensed by a doctor's prescription and ways of upgrading the standard of health workers are also on the agenda.

Jordan, Lebanon talk of joint investments

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of a visiting Lebanese industrial and business delegation said in Amman Monday that his group was seeking the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Lebanese investment company that can market jointly manufactured goods.

Jack Sarraf, chairman of the Lebanese businessmen Association, was speaking at a meeting with the president and members of the Amman Chamber of Industry with whom he discussed Jordanian-Lebanese trade exchanges.

For his part, Khalidoun Abu Hassan, the chamber's president, suggested the convening of an investment seminar as first put forth by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, so that Lebanese and those involved in Jordanian business and economic sectors can discuss ways for coordinating their plans and overcoming obstacles that might impede trade exchanges.

German business delegation invited to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of German businessmen have been invited to Amman in the spring by the prime minister to study prospects for investments in Jordan, according to Dr. Sharif Abu Jaber, a member of the executive council of the Arab German Chambers of Commerce.

The delegation are to familiarise themselves with the opportunities for investment through meetings with government officials and Jordanian businessmen said Dr. Abu Jaber, who has been in Amman to pave the way for the visit. Dr. Abu Jaber met with government officials, responsible for economic development, cabinet ministers and officials from the public and private sectors. He said that the Germans will not only explore areas for investment but will also hold a joint seminar with the Jordanian private sector to discuss economic cooperation.

On the role of the Arab German Chamber of Commerce, he said that the chamber promotes

Environment discussed in Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan was one of 15 Arab and foreign nations taking part in a general seminar held in Cairo between Dec. 14 and 17 in preparation for the international conference on the environment to be held in Paris in the coming year.

Anis Muasher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) who attended the meeting said upon his return to Amman that the delegates discussed topics related to development and the environment, protection of the environment from pollution and the agenda of the Paris conference to be held in September next year.

He said that measures to safeguard the environment in Jordan through the efforts of the RSCN were reviewed and commended by the conference. Delegates included representatives from: Yemen, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt in addition to Jordan.

Mr. Muasher said earlier that he visited Oman which has been in close cooperation with Jordan in matters related to the protection of the environment and the conservation of nature.

Orthodox Arabs call on Christians and Muslims to unite in Bosnia-Herzegovina

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian Muslims and Christians Monday announced solidarity with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for an international conference to promote peace and co-existence in the Balkans.

"The General Islamic Congress for Jerusalem and the Orthodox Central Council for Jordan and Palestine call for a general conference for peace and co-existence between representatives of the Orthodox and other Christian communities in Europe and the Middle East on the one hand and their Muslim fellow citizens in the same region on the other. This should reaffirm a common will to eliminate the causes of division and discord. People should live together on terms of mutual acceptance and respect," said a joint statement issued at a press conference held in Amman.

Former minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and President of the executive council for the General Islamic Congress for Jerusalem who addressed the press condemned the atrocities being committed by the Serbs against other communities in the former Yugoslavian republics.

"We support the initiative of the Orthodox Central Council for a general conference to discuss the situation and we consider this initiative timely to demonstrate our condemnation of the barbaric action committed by the Serbs," said Mr. Sharif.

Later, Dr. Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times that the two sides were holding immediate contacts to set up a joint delegation that would prepare the ground for the proposed conference.

American based telephone company offers cheap international calls

Stephanie Genkin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian businesses dependent on long distance communication services need not be burdened by the extortionate rates of the local telecommunications state-monopoly any more. Thanks to a recent technological innovation marketed by the American based International Discount Telecommunications (IDT), frequent long distance users are able to substantially reduce costs.

For nearly one-third the price of long distance calls made from Jordan, international callers in the Kingdom can dial anywhere in the world-even Israel and the West Bank.

Customers pay 250 U.S. dollars per month which connects them to an American telephone line and allows them to pay American rates which are considerably lower than Jordanian. In technological terms, the system works along the lines of a conference call.

For the monthly fee, overseas callers are hooked into a box which contains an automatic dialer and a conference call mechanism. A caller in Jordan, for instance, dials the New Jersey based company, and after letting the phone ring once, hangs up. The black box registers the caller's number and automatically rings back. Now connected with an

American line, the customer in Jordan can place a call anywhere in the world. In other words, the first line connects the caller with the United States, while the second line connects the caller with his desired country.

The savings are substantial. Consider a ten-minute telephone call from Jordan to the U.S. in the evening: If dialed directly from Jordan, the call would cost 29.50 U.S. dollars. The same call, however, placed through IDT would amount to only 13 U.S. dollars.

Mr. Howard Jonas, the company's founder, developed the phone system as a result of his own business ventures overseas, in which one month of long distance calls from Israel to America amounted to an estimated shock of 8,000 U.S. dollars, according to the New York Times newspaper. Prior to the bill, Mr. Jonas had anticipated that the cost of the calls from his office to Israel to the U.S. would come to 1,000 U.S. dollars, said the Times.

In an effort to reduce his phone bill, the 36 year old entrepreneur immediately set up a conference call system; this temporary solution paved the way for a more elaborate device.

With the development of the necessary technology Mr. Jonas decided to branch out and market his cost saving device to overseas companies, many of which are victims of state-controlled telecommunications monopolies.

However, some Jordanian companies are reluctant to buy into the IDT system for tax purposes. As bulk patrons of the local telecommunications company, Jordanian businesses enjoy tax breaks on overseas calls.

But the IDT Director claims that the company saves money for clients in the Middle East. According to the British newspaper, the Independent, oil companies, chemical trading companies and Israeli hi-tech manufacturers are amongst IDT's best customers. Firms in over 90 countries subscribe to the service ringing up several million dollars of business a year.

Although some foreign telecommunications companies such as Spain's have threatened to sue the IDT, authorities in the U.S. have found no legal problems with the cost-saving device. A July meeting between officials from the Federal Communications Commission, Vice President Dan Quayle and Mr. Jonas in Washington found the IDT in violation within legal bounds.

However, due to the monthly charge to hook into the system, the good news is only for large corporations with overseas business. Until a cheaper service is developed, individuals strapped by price long distance bills will remain victim to the state-controlled communications monopoly.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister attends army celebration

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Monday attended a celebration organised by the Royal Mechanised Division to mark the creation of a new unit.

Medical team to head for Croatia

AMMAN (Petra) — A medical team from the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) will head Tuesday for Croatia to extend help to people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, JMA President Ishaq Jaber said Monday. A press conference held at the Jordanian Social Associations Complex, announced that the team will be a shipment of medicine and medical requirements were contributed by doctors from all over Jordan. Dr. Jaber said another Jordanian medical team will leave for Bosnia next month to examine the Bosnian people's needs. A committee of doctors for helping the Bosnian people, Dr. Jaber said, has been set up. The committee also will be used in purchasing medicine. The committee also will be used in purchasing medicine. The committee also will be used in purchasing medicine.

Department confiscates Al Ahali weekly

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Press and Publications Department has issued the second issue of Al Ahali Arabic Weekly this week. A statement issued by the tabloid's Chief Editor Jamil Al Nimri said. Mr. Nimri protested at this measure, saying the law already facing financial problems. "The consecutive confiscation of the newspaper add to the tabloid's existing financial problems represented in additional financial and administrative resulting from printing it abroad, which now seriously threaten our ability to continue to publish it," Mr. Nimri said in a statement which was faxed to the Jordanian press.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

By Rami G. Khouri

Jordan Times

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Appeal wins right

WITH THE incorporation of the right of appeal to the highest court of the land in the new draft law on the State Security Court system, the new legislation was obviously poised for early adoption by the Lower House of Parliament. This much the House did Sunday when it approved the draft law.

The thorny issue about the right to appeal State Security Court decisions had aborted all earlier efforts to speed up the adoption of the new law and kept in force the old law on state security courts.

When Parliament members Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash were arrested on charges of conspiring against state security and then prosecuted on the basis of the old law, many local and international jurists and human rights activists sounded the alarm that any trial under the shadow of the old law that precluded the right of appeal would remain suspect in world eyes. The general amnesty proclaimed by His Majesty King Hussein effectively put an end to the legal snafu that ensued from the trial of the two parliamentarians and set the stage for the adoption of the new law that contained the right of appeal — the missing link in the old law.

Since the file on the law governing the establishment and functioning of state security courts is now wide open, it would be prudent to raise other issues related to this law. Of particular interest in this case is when such courts can be invoked and the kind of circumstances that would warrant their activation. To simply legislate the existence of state security courts on a permanent basis would defeat the very reason behind the creation of such courts that are geared to handle emergency and unusual circumstances and situations. It must be borne in mind that emergency court systems can be applied only in emergency situations threatening the security and stability of the country. What threatens state security and stability must be conservatively construed. Otherwise, there could be opportunities for abuse and arbitrary application of the new law.

Fortunately, the judges who will sit on the benches of the state security courts will be both civilian and military. This is a remarkable improvement on the existing law that may assign only military judges. But on balance the government would be better advised if it appoints civilian judges in matters that do not touch upon military issues, since it is the prerogative of the prime minister to name the judges for any given state security trials.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE PALESTINIANS possess no oil wealth and therefore the so-called new world order can only offer them lip service, which does not serve any purpose, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The Palestinians do not constitute a political or economic instrument for the United States and therefore they do not win favour in Washington although their cause has been supported for so long by the United Nations and its Security Council resolutions, the paper said. Despite the world community's solidarity with the Palestinians and their sympathy over the civilians who fell under Israeli bullets, the United States can find no reason for spearheading efforts to help them regain their full rights in their homeland, the paper continued. It said that as the Palestinian deportees freeze in no man's land, the world community only looks on without ending their plight or forcing the Israeli enemy to rescind the unjust order for expulsion. For the past four decades, the Palestinian rights have been usurped and thrown on to the Arab countries by the Israeli forces, added the daily. It said that the Israelis, who are massing settlers in Arab lands, want to have an empty homeland for the immigrants and want to deny the Palestinians the right to form a state. And for this reason, Zionist terrorism continues. The paper said that the Palestinians, like the Iraqis, are adamant in their struggle to retain their rights and are resolved to die, need be, defending their homes and lands. But, it said, the so-called new world order is not doing anything at all to bring justice to the Palestinians and the world and to help establish security in this region.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily tackled the latest Israeli massacre committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza which saw the death and injury of scores of innocent civilians. The paper said the Israeli response of responding favourably to the U.N. Security Council resolution demanding repatriating the over 400 deportees, the Israelis chose to direct their weapons towards the defenceless civilians and kill as many of them as possible. The firing on the Palestinians in Gaza shows the world Israel's determination to disregard the world community's resolutions and its resolve to liquidate the Palestinian problem. Security Council Resolution 799 is totally ignored by Israel which continues to violate the Geneva conventions and the basic human rights of the Palestinian people under its rule, said the daily. The paper said that the crime of deportation stands out as the best proof of Israel's atrocities and criminal actions against the oppressed people of Palestine. This, it said, calls for immediate international intervention to put an end to these atrocities and end the plight of the Palestinian people.

The View from Fourth Circle

Fine wine, good cheese and sensible nations

I HAVE had the good fortune in the last several weeks to visit Yemen and Djibouti, for a particularly interesting vantage point on the events in Somalia and the rest of the Horn of Africa. The story in Somalia is important in itself, but the more fascinating tale being played out throughout the Horn of Africa and along the shores of the Red Sea is very similar to the one we are witnessing in Jordan and most other parts of the Arab World. If you thought that Djibouti and Yemen were far away, exotic places, then perhaps you should think again; they are very close to home, in terms of national challenges and aspirations.

The characters, cultures and historical and geographical circumstances are different in Jordan, Yemen and Djibouti, but the fundamental national dynamics in these three very different countries are virtually identical: an indigenous people's quest for a viable political culture and sustainable socio-economic development, in the challenging context of post-colonial distress, an unstable and often violent regional order, continuous demographic upheaval, major economic constraints, a radically changed global geopolitical arrangement and efforts to build more participatory and accountable domestic political systems.

The parallels among the national conditions of Jordan, Djibouti and Yemen, in contrast to their very different socio-economic demographic configurations, strengthen my conviction that the entire Arab World is passing through a historic phase of national transformation — a transformation by which the people of this region are trying desperately to overcome their common stresses and distortions, in favour of building a new, more sensible and more durable Arab order.

It is hard to find three countries more different than Yemen, Jordan and Djibouti. Yemen is largely rural (80 per cent of the people live in 60,000 villages scattered amongst mountains, valleys and desert plains), about 60 per cent illiterate and tribal, with a population of over 12 million people and severe problems of unemployment, housing, water and foreign exchange reserves. Jordan is a modest-size country of 3.8 million people, largely urban, highly educated (over 80 per cent literacy), with relatively manageable economic and demographic pressures.

Djibouti is a city state of about half a million people, most of whom live in the capital of Djibouti-Ville, depending for survival on France's foreign aid and military presence, and suffering high rates of illiteracy, poverty, disease and unemployment.

The Djiboutian people are the first to admit that theirs is a totally artificial state, created as an independent country in 1977 from the legacy of about 130 years of French colonial control. They are a poor version of Singapore, a small, strategically-located synthesis of four different ethnic and linguistic groups forged in the heat of late 19th century colonialism — a world that no longer exists — and trying to adjust to the strange new realities of the late 20th century's unipolar world.

Their independence coincided with the start of the Ogaden Desert War between neighbouring Somalia and Ethiopia, which resulted in the outflow of over half a million Somali refugees, of whom some 100,000 remain in Djibouti today and some 400,000 in Ethiopia.

Ever since, Djibouti has suffered one catastrophe after another, including continuous waves of refugees from the fighting in Somalia and the change of government in Ethiopia last year, as well as from drought in both countries. Floods and the recent internal conflict within Djibouti between the two main tribal groups, the Afars and the Issas, have also displaced tens of thousands of people.

Consequently, Djibouti today strains under the pressures of massive demographic dislocation that has seen the capital nearly double in size in the last decade. Much of the city comprises very poor quarters where the average per capita income is around

\$400. Yet, the Djiboutians are engaged in a serious attempt to develop a pluralistic political system that can have a better chance of long-term survival than the one-party system that has dominated domestic life since independence.

The domestic contest for power-sharing among the Afars and the Issas belies a deeper quest for viable nationhood based on national consensus and individual self-respect, rather than on the past's legacy of colonial imperative, foreign dependence or autocratic domestic controls. The immediate pressures on Djibouti reflect the burden of domestic and regional refugees and the constraints of the government's budget deficit; but these in turn simply mirror the fundamental post-colonial stress that defines most of the Arab World.

It is no accident that the three most stressful and ravaged countries in the Arab World in the last decade — Lebanon, Somalia and Algeria — were all colonised, controlled or created by France (a country I love dearly on its own territory, but not as a colonial power). The next Arab countries to suffer most — Iraq and Kuwait — were artificial British creations... But that's another tale, for another day. It is no coincidence, therefore, that most of the Horn of Africa is in the midst of deep restructuring, with Somalia, Ethiopia and Djibouti all experiencing significant demographic shifts, more democratic internal political rearrangements, or the break-up of old states and the birth of new ones (Somaliland in northern Somalia and Eritrea in northeastern Ethiopia).

Is it any surprise that the three most significant military interventions by American-French-British forces in the Middle East in the last quarter century should have been, respectively, in Lebanon, Iraq/Kuwait, and Somalia? Is this just strange coincidence, or inevitable historical revenge? Whatever it is, it is also part of the broader contemporary Arab phenomenon of countries struggling to get on their feet without the artificial crutches of the cold war and its aid-and-guns-based superpower rivalries.

Yemen and Jordan are passing through similar but less drastic changes. Both countries must deal with population growth that outstrips natural resources, while their economies have not yet developed compensatory life support systems. The legacy of political and economic power almost totally centralised in the hands of the government has seen both countries enter the 1990s deeply hobbled by distortions and dependencies that could not be sustained. The central governments of Jordan and Yemen lack the funds and the human capabilities required to remain the main source of jobs, income, food, shelter, social services and security.

So, we had our small bout of price-rise-instigated street demonstrations in April 1989 and the Yemenis had their larger scale riots last week. Economic distortions, however, are only the surface manifestation of deeper political imbalances in how power is wielded and exercised, and how decisions are made. The important historical changes in Jordan and Yemen relate precisely to this shift in the centre of gravity of the power structure, slightly away from the central government; and slightly more towards the people and their institutions.

It is to the deep credit of the Jordanian and Yemeni people and leadership that both should push ahead with their political transformations in the face of regional turbulence, domestic demographic and economic pressures, and the ugly contempt of powerful, scared neighbours and world powers further away who fear this brand of Arab democratisation. Yemen is also burdened by the additional weight of unifying a country torn asunder by colonial division (is it any coincidence that the French established Djibouti largely to counteract British influence in nearby Aden? Or is it... oh, never mind, if we get into this colonial gazetteer we'll have a hard time getting out — sort of like the western troops in

Kurdistan... but that's another tale, for another, oh mind...)

The sort of structural political change now taking place in Jordan, Yemen, Djibouti and other Arab states does not smoothly. It elicits reactionary tendencies from ancient types which prefer the old ways, the tired old man, comfortable wielding the whimsical levers of autocratic making than submitting to the consent and accountability of his own people. We see in Yemen and Jordan today, as we more dramatic men of yesterday to turn back the clock, to the ways of the past and to find a nice, warm, deep place into which they can stick their heads.

But these forays into the false comforts of ancient aut will not work. They will not fool the people of Jordan or Yemen or Djibouti. They will fool the people of Yemen or Djibouti, privileged purveyors of imperial fantasies may try to reassemble old advantages. Some particularly scared and intelligent frenzied people will appeal to narrow tribal and god identities, hoping to cut themselves off from the rest of the and find comfort in isolation and foreign dependencies. R scurrying for safety in a hallucinatory hall of mirrors, work any better today for Gulf sheikhdoms, Nubian in Levantine principalities than it did for King Herod, the in Palmyra or the crusader king of Jerusalem in ancient.

The transformation of Arab societies into more entities that are viable and durable because they respect wishes and rights of their people is a process and a force it prove much stronger than the fears and selfishness of an intellectually colonised Arab minority that speeds more European and North American capitals than it does in provincial cities. It took Western Europe around one the years to make this transformation (from the Roman Empire Magna Carta) and another half a millennium to instill the rights of individuals within a republican form of government (from the Magna Carta to the French and American revolutions). So we should not be in a hurry to finish our task in haste, nations, like fine wines and cheeses, take time to truly stabilise.

We should not assess developments in the Middle East in the convoluted spectacles of the American and British media that dominate the world. They will try to peddle Somalia as a humanitarian intervention, along with other defective intellectual merchandise that sells well in little domes and peculiar little Levantine principalities. We respond that humanitarian aid to Somalia is a good deed, support it, but we should insist that the real criterion of our eyes is not only to feed individuals, but to form a sensible, and durable nations.

That — nation-building on the basis of authentic identity — is the real drama of the Arab World today. To guarantee that international forces will have to come back again and again in decades to come, to fight battles that can won, in a landscape that cannot be tamed, because the political and national configurations, inherited from the century, make little sense in their present forms. In this or for Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese and all Arabs and interested international observers, Yemen Djibouti become more relevant lands, a bit closer to home dearer to our hearts.

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Independent Slovakia faces difficult future

By Roland Prinz
The Associated Press

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia — After centuries of Hungarian domination and decades in the Czech shadow, Slovakia becomes independent Jan. 1. But its future looks precarious. Many Slovaks never wanted

their rural state of 5 million to split from the richer Czech lands. Intellectuals and business executives doubt there is enough money to keep central Europe's newest mini state afloat. Even if there were, they say Premier Vladimir Meciar has no idea how to go about it. "There are two possibilities:

either the country as a whole will plunge into quagmire or the government will collapse," said economist Ludovit Kanik, an adviser to the former coalition government led by Christian Democrats, which was ousted by Mr. Meciar. Mr. Meciar campaigned for Slovak sovereignty and won June elections.

Slovak yearnings for a stronger identity after centuries of Hungarian rule and what many feel was a second class role in union with the Czechs since 1918 clashed with Czech pride personified by that republic's tough-talking premier, Vaclav Klaus. Mr. Meciar's critics charge that Mr. Klaus insisted on splitting

after Mr. Meciar pushed too hard for sovereignty. They say Mr. Meciar was caught off guard and Slovakia could pay dearly. Ludovit Cernak, the economics minister, disagrees. "It does not see the perspectives for the independent Slovak Republic and economy in dark col-

ours," he said. Slovakia, with its Tatra Mountains, could tourism and might also middleman, border West. It borders Poland north and impoverished to the east, while Bratislava just across the Danube Austria.

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Government complies

(Continued from page 1)

work out a system for controlling the finances of the semi-official departments and will propose a way for the maintenance of government-owned vehicles, he said.

Sharif Zeid said he had also instructed departments to avoid making any changes to projects that would entail additional financial burden for the Treasury except with prior approval from the Prime Ministry.

He said the government had instructed the Civil Service Commission to follow up and supervise administrative reform and to ensure modernisation of the procedures in government departments.

The prime minister said he had requested government departments to intensify their efforts aimed at ensuring quick and efficient service.

A series of measures have been taken to ensure development of public administration, he said. These included the creation of specialised units to carry out training and reforms in all ministries and departments, he added.

All departments have prepared working plans to simplify procedures and routine and some of these departments have already published their simplified procedures while others' turn will come soon, he said.

He said the working plans of 20 departments with direct contact with the public had been chosen or intensive debate before they were put into force.

Sharif Zeid said the Audit Bureau had completed a comprehensive study for developing its own regulations with a view to improving performance.

The prime minister said that he had instructed the Audit Bureau to include in its annual report to the House all views and remarks concerning violations by government departments pertaining to revenues and expenditure. He said that the Audit Bureau's report would be considered as an annual reference document.

Tunis meetings could be turning point

(Continued from page 1)

Israel's cooperation, the radicals will win wider support on the streets," said an Amman-based Palestinian activist, who is himself a deportee from the occupied territories.

"But the Israelis are playing hardball with the Palestinians and things could get out of hand. Then the Israelis are going to wish they had talked to the PLO, but it will be too late: Hamas and other more radical groups will have the reigns of power," said the activist, a member of the PFLP.

Many Palestinian activists believe that the Rabin government is well aware that Hamas could well take over the PLO if Israel continues to insist that it will not withdraw from the occupied territories.

"Interim autonomy is still what the Israelis have in mind," said a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC). "This means security zones, settler zones and some Arab zones. In other words they don't want to be serious. In fact they are giving those who oppose the talks ammunition," he said. "When you give people ammunition it means you want them to fight. Maybe allowing for greater unrest is part of the long-term Israeli plan. They can detain and expel and do whatever they want under the guise of protecting themselves from Arab terrorists."

Such plans, Palestinian observers in Jordan believe, will serve a dual purpose. "They will 'ethnically cleanse' the occupied territories of Palestinians and claim that retaliatory Palestinian action proves that they don't want to talk peace," said a Tunis-based member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Like the struggle between Israelis and Palestinians the struggle for representational power between Hamas and the

PLO has been highlighted by the events of the last two weeks.

Palestinian activists across the political spectrum see a larger role for Hamas in the Palestinian political arena for some time to come. Such a role for the once-marginal group will eventually translate into a substantial number of seats in the PNC.

While Mr. Arafat has persistently opposed the inclusion of "large" numbers of Hamas members in the PNC, his prerogative to make such decisions may be diminishing as Hamas's popularity increases.

At present Hamas has no seats in the PNC. This is partly by choice and partly because Mr. Arafat has said he will decide the number of seats they receive.

Last year, when Hamas leaders met with Mr. Arafat in Khartoum, the PLO chairman offered the organisation 18 seats in the 450-member council.

Hamas was asking for 40 per cent and the meeting failed to produce a compromise although both sides said the numbers mentioned were negotiable.

"The lack of progress in the peace talks has resulted in a feeling that the struggle goes on — The military struggle is being led by Hamas right now and so it has the chance to get popular support," said a Fateh official in Amman this week.

Palestinian observers believe that the massive expulsion of Palestinians last week prompted Mr. Arafat to call for a meeting with Hamas.

PLO officials in Tunis played down the numerous Hamas statements indicating it wanted to meet with Mr. Arafat.

Many are wary of the kind of power the organisation could wield once they join or merge under the PLO umbrella.

"The people in Tunis, including Arafat, are trying to

avoid bringing Hamas into the PLO/PNC fold," said a Fateh insider who is critical of the policies of the "kitchen cabinet."

Hamas, which has unofficially existed since the early 1980s, was once supported, in principle, by the Israelis who hoped it would wear away the influence of the PLO in the occupied territories. But after the group officially announced its formation in 1988, Israel came to realise that Hamas' tactics were as deadly as that of the PLO.

Hamas's religious image was initially met with disdain by many politicised Palestinians who mostly backed secular groups in the past.

But when Hamas aligned itself with the two popular Palestinian parties — the PFLP and DFLP — its public image began to change.

Much of the Palestinian public is critical of the peace process not only because there has been no result but also because the terms of the talks are not considered sufficient to meet their demands of statehood, a concept which both Israel and the U.S. reject in principle.

But Hamas and the leftist PFLP, which in popularity is second only to Fateh in secular Palestinian circles, oppose the concept of a two-state solution. Their official agendas state that they prefer one state instead of two. Hamas wants the state to be Islamic while the PFLP wants a secular state.

Despite the official rhetoric, both groups are known for their willingness to compromise if they are offered substantial returns. Both groups privately say that they would be willing to help run a state in the West Bank and Gaza and East Jerusalem.

"To give us even less than the territories occupied in 1967 and to refuse the right of return of the refugees to the 1948 areas is not acceptable," said a top Hamas official in Amman, Mohammad Nazzal. "International law is our bottom line, if Israel does not agree to that, then tough luck to peace."

Israeli

(Continued from page 1)

around the Palestinians and fired machineguns over their heads. Amjad Zamel, 20, was hit in the jaw by shrapnel and taken to a Lebanese hospital. Another Palestinian was hit in the hand in a second round of shooting.

Clashes erupted in 'Ain Beit Elma refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus, Mr. Zamel's home, when the news spread.

Elsewhere on the third consecutive day of protests in the occupied territories, residents said Israeli troops shot dead an 11-year-old boy in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip.

Ayman Abu Amer, nephew of expelled Mamoun Abu Amer, was the ninth Palestinian killed.

The Marj Al Zohour confrontation started at 11 a.m. (0900 GMT), one hour after the Palestinians evacuated their newly-erected tent city on orders from the Lebanese army and headed towards the "security zone."

Husseini calls for Israeli-PLO talks

(Continued from page 1)

draft agenda for their negotiations on interim Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We found that it is something to legitimise occupation, something cutting to pieces the whole area of the occupied territories and to create a situation which will block any possibility of a Palestinian state. This way of thinking really is the problem," he said.

In the Tunis meetings, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat received support from Palestinian leaders for his efforts to patch differences with rival Muslim fundamentalists, but hardliners still insisted on withdrawing from the peace talks.

Mr. Husseini welcomed the overture of inviting the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to meetings in Tunis as "a necessary step to develop inter Palestinian relations."

"Hamas is an important element in the national unity, and we are all fighting the same battle against our ruthless enemy," Mr. Husseini said.

In Damascus, 10 Palestinian groups opposed to the peace talks issued a statement showing suspicions about Mr. Arafat's motives.

The Damascus coalition, which includes Hamas, said the invitation "was allegedly made to discuss the expulsion issue, but the real aim was to discuss the peace process and dismember the alliance of the 10 groups as a force opposed to Zionist American settlement plans."

A leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the second-largest PLO faction and one of the 10 hardline groups, said the PFLP will press the Palestinian leaders to order the withdrawal of the Palestinian team from the peace talks.

Abdul Rahim Mafooh, a member of the political bureau of the PFLP, said it was futile to continue the talks because Israel has shown no sign of compromise.

"No Palestinian leader can justify now the continuation of the talks because the outcome has so far been destructive, especially in regard to the situation in the occupied territories," he said.

He also welcomed the participation of Hamas in the gathering of Palestinian leaders and expressed hope it would "play a positive role in the decision-making process."

Another of the 10, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, is boycotting the meetings, demanding the withdrawal of the Palestinians.

Previous attempts to reconcile Hamas with Arafat's mainstream Fateh faction have failed. The two groups have engaged at times in bloody confrontations in efforts to win support among Palestinians in the occupied territories.

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FORTE HOTELS

Barcelona lose lead; Deportivo back on top

MADRID (R) — Hristo Stoichkov and Ronald Koeman were sent off as Barcelona lost their lead in the Spanish Championship Sunday.

Nine-man Barcelona were held 3-3 by unfancied Rayo Vallecano, who collected eight of the 13 bookings in the bitter battle. Bulgarian forward Stoichkov, voted second this weekend behind Marco Van Basten in the European Footballer of the Year Awards, departed just seven minutes into the game for a second yellow card offence.

Moments after receiving his first caution for protesting to the referee he was involved in another dispute over a free-kick. Dutch defender Koeman was dismissed in the 70th minute for deliberate handball when Austrian Anton Polster seemed certain to score.

It failed to deter Polster. The Austrian calmly drove home the ensuing penalty to complete his hat-trick and add to his goals in the second and 20th minutes.

Koeman had begun Barcelona's resurgence in the 40th minute after they were two goals down by scoring from the penalty spot.

Although they again fell two behind after Polster's penalty, Barcelona dug deep into their reserves and hit back through some superb creative play by Danish striker Michael Laudrup.

After a deceptively weaving run through the centre by Laudrup, Jose Bakero volleyed a 20-metre left-foot shot into the net and five minutes later Julio Salinas levelled.

It was a courageous response by the depleted Barcelona team but they still surrendered the league lead to Deportivo Coruna, who surprised Real Zaragoza with a 2-0 away win, their first victory there in 40 years.

Striker Claudio Barragan scored the first after seven minutes and Brazilian Jose Bebeito the second from a 22nd minute penalty.

Atletico Madrid slid to a disastrous 1-0 home defeat to bottom-placed Logrones, only their second victory of the season and their first away.

With Real Madrid losing 2-0 at Seville Saturday, the capital's top two teams lost ground.

Deportivo have 23 points, Barcelona 22 and a game in hand, and third-placed Real Madrid 20.

Feyenoord grab second place behind PSV

Feyenoord Rotterdam scored twice in the last five minutes to beat Willem II Tilburg 2-0 and move into second place behind PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch League.

Henk Fraser broke the deadlock in the 85th minute and Nigerian striker Mike Obaku added the second three minutes later as Feyenoord climbed above FC Utrecht on goal difference.

Defending champions PSV, who beat Vitesse Arnhem 1-0, have 26 points, five more than Feyenoord and FC Utrecht, as the Dutch League begins a two-month winter break.

PSV coach Hans Westerhof, whose side have dropped only four points so far this season, said they were ready for a rest after a

lacklustre performance not helped by an injury list including Wim Kieft, Berry Van Aerle, Erwin Koeman and Juul Ellerman.

UEFA Cup holders Ajax Amsterdam are sixth, eight points adrift of PSV but with two games in hand over the leaders.

AEK wins, increases lead

Remaining undefeated, defending champion AEK of Athens held a commanding lead in the Greek First Division Soccer league after the weekend's games.

AEK beat Kalamaria 2-0 at home and increased to seven points its lead after 14 games. AEK has 38 points. Olympiakos of Piraeus, who played to a scoreless draw against Paok in Salonica Sunday, follows with 31.

Panathinaikos of Athens and OFI Crete share third place with 27 points each.

Panathinaikos beat Aris 1-0 in Salonica, and OFI defeated Pierikos 3-0 in Crete.

Vogts 'gets tough' with German players

MONTEVIDEO (R) — German coach Bertie Vogts claimed a new 'get tough' policy towards his players was behind the 4-1 thrashing of Uruguay in Montevideo's Centenario Stadium Sunday.

Vogts, the target of intense criticism following the world champions' hitherto poor recent run of results which included a 3-1 defeat by Brazil Wednesday, said he had learned "to be more aggressive" with his side.

"Until the Brazil game, I treated them like friends. After that, I showed them I was the trainer," Vogts said.

A smiling Vogts, whose relations with German reporters had become visibly strained, said he has delighted with the performances of striker Juergen Klinsmann, midfielder Andreas Moeller and sweeper Guiso Buchwald against Uruguay, adding: "Moeller could enhance any team in the world."

Moeller, previously unable to hold down a regular place, scored the second goal, set up the fourth for Klinsmann and gave the Uruguayan defence a torrid time.

Vogts has yet to find an adequate replacement for former striker Rudi Voller, who retired from international soccer this year, while neither Andreas Thom, who partnered Klinsmann against Brazil, nor Thomas Doll, who played against Uruguay, were convincing.

Midfielder maestro Lothar Matthaus, who returned to the team against Brazil for the first time since recovering from a serious knee injury, was equally lacklustre in both games.

Matthaus has also found himself the target of much criticism and admitted he would not be back to his best until next year. "A lot of things have happened since 1990 but I think next year I will be back to my old form," he said. "The press distort a lot of things because there is a lot of pressure to see who can sell the most newspapers."

Matthaus' Stefan Effenberg, Fiorentina's return meant that Fiorentina's Stefan Effenberg, who had taken over the role of playmaker, was pushed to the left side of midfield against Brazil.



Bertie Vogts

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Faldo defeats Norman in golf championship playoff

MONTEGO BAY (R) — Nick Faldo withstood a barrage of birdies by Greg Norman to win the Johnnie Walker World Championship in a sudden-death playoff after he birdied the final hole to tie the Australian. Faldo, who sank a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th to force the playoff, only needed to par in the playoff to collect the \$550,000 first prize. Norman, who won \$300,000 for second place, shot an amazing 63 on a very difficult golf course to post a 72-hole total of 274, six under par for the championship. Faldo, number one in world rankings, closed with a 68 for his 274.

Bowe to make first defence against Dokes

NEW YORK (R) — Heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe will make his first title defence against former champion Michael Dokes February 6 at New York's Madison Square Garden. It was announced Sunday. Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, said Dokes was selected from a group of possible challengers which included Alex Stewart, Francesco Damiani, Tony Tubbs and Alex Garcia. Dokes, who is 44-3-2, won the World Boxing Association heavyweight title from Mike Weaver with a first-round knockout in December 1982, but lost the crown the next year to Gerry Coetzee. At stake will be the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation championships.

Austrian skier dies after downhill victory

VIENNA (R) — Austrian skier Peter Wirsberger died Sunday in a skiing accident shortly after winning a downhill race at Altenmarkt-Zauchensee, near Salzburg. Wirsberger, 24, died instantly after skiing into a wooden fence during a brief skiing outing with his girlfriend between his victory and delayed awards ceremony, press reports said. Wirsberger was regarded as a rising hope in the Austrian ski team with potential in both the downhill and super-giant slalom events. Wirsberger's death was the 22nd fatal accident among leading skiers since World War II — 11 have died during racing or training.

Tomba still without world title

MILAN (AP) — It should come as no surprise to ski fans that Alberto Tomba is off to a slow start on the slopes this winter. There's a world championship competition coming up, after all.

The 26-year-old Italian, dominant in Olympic years but still without a world title, had disappointing seasons surrounding previous World Championship meets in 1989 and 1991. His performance in the weeks leading up to the 1993 championships in Morioka, Japan, is no better.

Suffering consecutive defeats in four slaloms and three giant slaloms, Tomba has been shut out in the first month of World Cup races for the first time in his career.

"I am not worried. I am in good form and wins will come next month," Tomba said following two more losses in gate events at Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, over the weekend.

He placed second to Swede Tomas Fogdöe in a slalom and finished seventh in a giant slalom won by World Cup veteran Marc Girardelli.

In the last few races, Tomba has appeared only a shadow of the powerful and self-confident athlete who last season took nine world cup races and became the first skier ever to win consecutive Olympic titles (Calgary and Albertville).

Some Italian ski experts suggest that Tomba is pressing too hard for wins to please commercial sponsors paying him an estimated \$8 million a year.

His slalom coach Gustavo Thoeni says Tomba only needs some good luck and a bit of concentration to turn things around.

"After all, the placed second three times and first once. Not too bad at all," Thoeni said. Tomba threw away an almost



Alberto Tomba

certain victory in the Sestriere slalom last month when he attacked like a fury in the second run and fell. He led the field by more than a second after the first run.

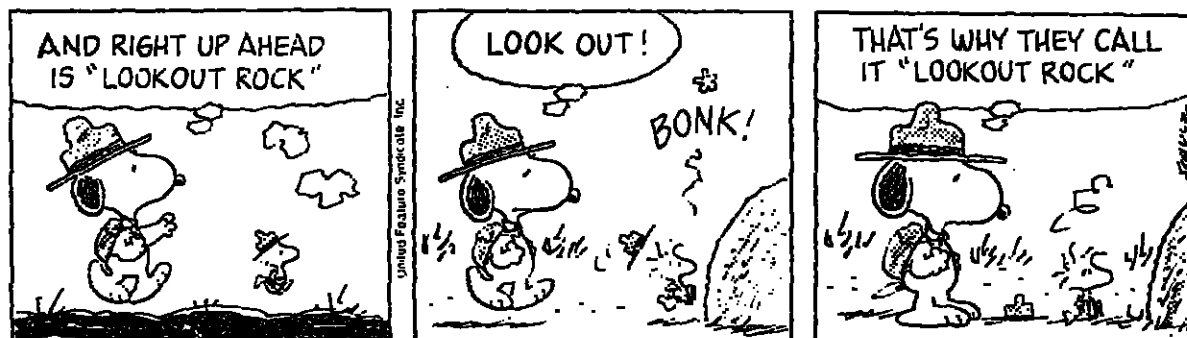
He still leads the overall cup standings with 372 points but is expected to be overtaken Tuesday by Girardelli.

The all-around skier from Luxembourg trails Tomba by only five points following his second victory this season and is expected to pocket points in Tuesday's super giant slalom race in Austria.

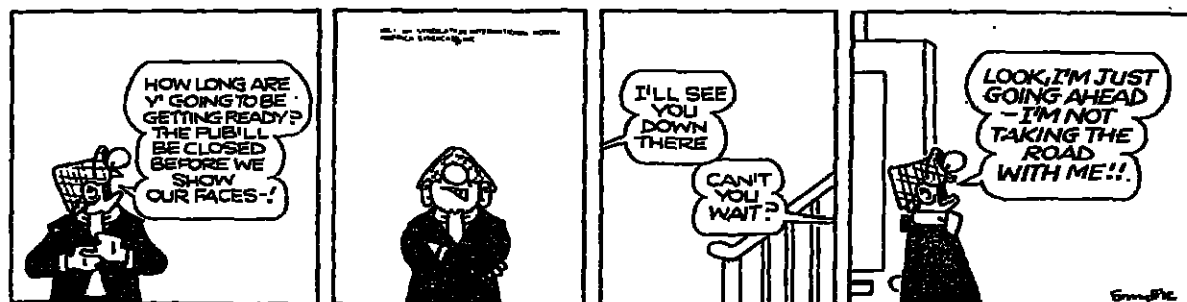
Tomba does not start in speed races and will next race in a slalom at Garmisch-Partenkirchen Jan. 10.

The Italian often has said that the overall title is out of his range under present rules benefiting skiers who compete in all four disciplines.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Economy

Financial Markets
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

\$ Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
sterling Pound	1.5660	1.5695
Swiss Franc	1.5640	1.5637
French Franc	1.4085	1.4073
Japanese Yen	5.3420	5.3375
European Currency Unit	1.2465	1.2500

Interest Rates Date: 21. 12. 1992

currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
\$ Dollar	3.53	5.46	5.31	4.06
sterling Pound	7.12	6.93	6.75	6.81
Swiss Franc	9.12	9.00	8.56	7.93
French Franc	6.25	6.12	5.93	5.56
Japanese Yen	12.00	11.56	10.87	9.75
European Currency Unit	3.90	3.75	3.66	3.65

Interest Rates Date: 21. 12. 1992

Gold	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Silver	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
old	336.8	6.60	3.77	0.60	

Interest Rates Date: 21. 12. 1992

currency	Bid	Offer
\$ Dollar	0.6870	0.6890
sterling Pound	1.0771	1.0825
Swiss Franc	0.4388	0.4410
French Franc	0.4875	0.4899
Japanese Yen	0.1285	0.1291
European Currency Unit	0.5573	0.5601
Gold	0.3902	0.3922
Silver	0.0992	0.0997
Iran Rial	0.0489	0.0491
South African Rand	0.02129	0.02140

Interest Rates Date: 21. 12. 1992

currency	Bid	Offer
\$ Dollar	1.7970	1.8200
sterling Pound	0.03615	0.03628
Swiss Franc	0.1629	0.1640
French Franc	2.2800	2.3000
Japanese Yen	0.1861	0.1872
European Currency Unit	0.2020	0.2150
Gold	1.7560	1.7820
Silver	0.1861	0.1872
Iran Rial	0.3270	0.3360
South African Rand	1.4630	1.4780

Interest Rates Date: 21. 12. 1992

currency	19. 12. 92 Close	20. 12. 92 Close
\$ Dollar	167.60	166.52
sterling Pound	127.44	123.16
French Franc	183.56	183.52
Japanese Yen	228.12	227.94
European Currency Unit	239.81	240.22

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession in London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. dollar	1.2740/45	Canadian dollar	1.5665/75
	1.5680/7610	Deutsche marks	1.7580/7610
	1.4115/25	Dutch guilders	32.14/19
	32.14/19	Swiss francs	5.3525/3625
	5.3525/3625	Belgian francs	1400/1410
	1400/1410	French francs	123.00/10
	123.00/10	Italian lire	6.9500/9600
	6.9500/9600	Japanese yen	6.7300/7400
	6.7300/7400	Swedish crowns	6.0450/0550
	6.0450/0550	Norwegian crowns	1.5640/50
sterling	1.5640/50	Danish crowns	5336.25/336.75
ounce of gold	5336.25/336.75		

ASIAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSTON: 660/90 / 663/10
ORIENTAL MARKET: 660/90 / 663/10

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PRICE CLOSING	PRICE OPENING	PRICE HIGH	PRICE LOW
INDONESIA TELECOM BANK	22,485	2,700	2,650	2,650	2,650
JORDAN PUBLIC BANK	80,773	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
THE HOUSTON BANK	4,233	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800
ANSA JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1,560	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
INDONESIA INVESTMENT BANK	23,163	2,100	2,110	2,110	2,110
GREY BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1,064	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
ANSA BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	7,187	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	426,334	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	7,760	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	151,157	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	124,288	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	63,289	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
SOUTHERN BANK	39,396	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100
WEST BAHAM SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	346,042	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800
TECH INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL ADVISORS	2,820	8,800	8,800	8,800	8,800
ANSA BANK	990,404	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
INDONESIA EAST INSURANCE	1,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
JORDAN INSURANCE	2,280	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
INDONESIA INSURANCE	3,123	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
UNITED INSURANCE	1,600	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700
JORDAN PRINCE INSURANCE	26,646	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700
TANJONG INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	5,390	3,050	3,050	3,050	3,050
ANSA LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	118,432	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
JORDAN NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750
JORDAN BANK & COMMERCE	2,800	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	50,825	1,520	1,520	1,520	1,520
ANSA INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	9,832	9,900	9,900	9,900	9,900
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9,080	1,210	1,210	1,210	1,210
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE	10,396	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250
JORDAN PRINCE INVESTMENT / ANSA	2,400	9,800	9,800	9,800	9,800
UNITED HOTEL EAST & COMMERCE HOTELS	71,840	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750
JORDAN HOTEL CORPORATION	290	0,800	0,800	0,800	0,800
INDONESIA EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	4,560	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
PETRO REFINERIES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	1,870	1,170	1,170	1,170	1,170
JORDAN OIL FIELD SERVICE INVESTMENT	19,335	0,810	0,810	0,810	0,810
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	5,343	3,170	3,170	3,170	3,170
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING / AD-CHARTER	6,890	6,540	6,540	6,540	6,540
JORDAN KUMAT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	9,535	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
ANSA PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	209,863	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
JORDAN BANK	4,828	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
THE PUBLIC TRUSTING	123	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,500
ANSA ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	213,119	10,800	10,750	10,750	10,750
ANSA PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	190,268	6,800	6,700	6,700	6,700
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	18,718	8,200	8,100	8,100	8,100
ANSA CHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRIES	155,930	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	46,522	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800
DAN AL BANK DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	57,180	10,200	10,150	10,150	10,150
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	45,889	3,900	3,800	3,800	3,800
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK	28,546	10,000	10,100	10,100	10,100
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	89	0,940	0,950	0,950	0,950
JORDAN FERTILIZER KINGS	541	0,250	0,220	0,220	0,220
ANSA CEMENT FOR PAPER & CHEMICALS	222,523	4,140	4,100	4,100	4,100
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	13,892	0,970	0,960	0,960	0,960
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	97,244	13,480	13,500	13,500	13,500
ALANZA INDUSTRIES	840	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
ANSA INDUSTRIES	18,193	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
NAPPA INDUSTRIES	97,374	2,610	2,610	2,610	2,610
JORDAN LUMBER	24,590	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & NATURAL/JOINED	22,923	3,270	3,270	3,270	3,270
SPINNING & WEAVING	57	1,080	1,120	1,120	1,120
ATTACHED COAT. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	57,671	6,810	6,840	6,840	6,840
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	112,454	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
JORDAN SELF-CONSUMPTION	97,008	1,640	1,640	1,640	1,640
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	9,366	2,380	2,380	2,380	2,380
JORDAN LUMBER INDUSTRIES	43,000	0,640	0,620	0,620	0,620
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	242,318	5,590	5,570	5,570	5,570
UNIVERSAL MACHINERY INDUSTRIES	62,676	3,900	3,980	3,980	3,980
ANSA INVESTMENT & INDUSTRIAL TRADE	19,155	6,900	6,900	6,900	6,900
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY					
GRAND TOTAL	4,742,239				

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TRADING VOLUME IN

Relief flights to Sarajevo resume

SARAJEVO (AP) — The U.N. air bridge to Sarajevo resumed operation Monday with the arrival of a British relief plane, but heavy clouds forced back a second aircraft.

While planes were ferrying supplies to help stop the advance of winter misery, European Community foreign ministers in Brussels were discussing ways to pressure Yugoslavia to end the war in the breakaway Bosnian Republic.

And ballots were being counted in Serbia's presidential elections, which gave voters a choice between the nationalist policies of incumbent Slobodan Milosevic and the more moderate Yugoslav premier, Milan Pantic.

Preliminary tallies from Sunday's polling showed them running neck-and-neck, amid persistent reports that Mr. Milosevic's supporters were rigging votes. Sarajevo, which has been surrounded by Serb forces for more than eight months, is suffering through the beginning of winter with no heat, electricity or running water.

Life for its remaining 380,000 people has been made more miserable by suspension of the relief flights, a key source of food and medical supplies.

Aleka Lisinski, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Zagreb, said the British plane landed Monday in Sarajevo at 8:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) and was to be followed by 11 others.

But an American plane was turned back due to poor visibility over the city, which is ringed by mountains. It was not clear when more landings would be attempted.

Airborne relief was cut off Dec. 1 after an American plane was hit by ground fire near the airport in the city's outskirts.

The resumption of the relief flights came as military representatives of Bosnia's Muslim-led government, Serbs and Croats continued daily meeting to discuss demilitarising the city.

Negotiations over the weekend reportedly bogged down over priorities and where the airport would figure in an eventual demilitarised zone.

Bosnian Serbs, who aim artillery and small arms fire daily at Sarajevo, want to first establish safe corridors for civilians in and out of the city. And they want the airport at the edge of the demilitarised zone.

The Bosnian government argues that the guns should be removed first, and wants the airport in the centre of the projected zone.

EC ministers were meeting a day after President George Bush and Prime Minister John Major of Britain agreed on the need to enforce a "no-fly" zone barring Serb aircraft over Bosnia.

"What we want is a rapid and radical change in policy out of Belgrade," said Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Secretary, as he entered EC headquarters for the talks.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Major set no deadline for Serb compliance and refused to say what would trigger enforcement. The U.N. Security Council is expected to vote this week on enforcing the Oct. 9 ban.

European Community peace negotiator Lord Owen has hammered out a plan for demilitarising Sarajevo after four days of

shuttle diplomacy among warring factions around the city.

"I think we've laid a framework for demilitarising Sarajevo...no doubt there will be many upsets and difficulties along the way but we have agreed now on a structure," Lord Owen told reporters after nearly three hours of talks with Bosnian Serbs in Lukavica near Sarajevo.

"If we can get this framework of cooperation working in Sarajevo it will be a great deal easier to get it working later in the rest of the country," he added.

Lord Owen has persuaded Muslim, Serb and Croat factions to create four working committees to solve groups of problems.

Among the issues to be addressed are demilitarising an area around Sarajevo's Airport, restoring utilities, creating joint police patrols in divided neighbourhoods and giving humanitarian assistance.

Lord Owen said each of the committees would coordinate its activities with an existing body known as the Mixed Military Working Group (MMWG).

That group is chaired by General Philippe Morillon, French commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, and includes senior military commanders from the three sides.

"What is clear is we can't move a step unless we have military authorisation, so we always have to come back to the Mixed Military Working Group," Lord Owen said.

Local military commanders have often scuttled ceasefire agreements and blocked U.N. efforts to repair utilities and

humanitarian convoys. Rather than focus on signing agreements, Lord Owen spent his time in Sarajevo trying to build a negotiating structure strong enough to survive temporary setbacks.

"It has got to be robust enough to survive a deterioration of relations," he told reporters. "You're always going to have to deal with flareups of fighting in a situation like this."

Lord Owen met Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, and Ratko Mladic, commander of his army, Monday.

He returned to Sarajevo to meet Bosnian Prime Minister Mile Alkadic, a Croat who recently assumed office.

Lord Owen announced he would leave Sarajevo by air later Monday to meet Cyrus Vance, his U.N. counterpart and co-chairman of the Geneva peace talks on former Yugoslavia.

The EC negotiator plans to stop in Zagreb to consult General Satish Nambiar, U.N. commander in former Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, Muslim and Croat forces fighting Bosnian Serbs around Sarajevo have made 230 metres advance towards the strategic Serb satellite town of Vogosca, Sarajevo Radio said Monday.

Vogosca contains two munitions factories and controls the road between the Bosnian Serb headquarters at Pale, 15 kilometres outside Sarajevo, and Serb-controlled territory west of the city.

There was sporadic machinegun and small arms fire in Sarajevo during the night and artillery fire could be heard in the distance to the west.



Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Pantic waves to supporters as he casts his ballot at a polling station in Belgrade (AFP photo)

Irish Protestants kill father as family wraps Christmas presents

BELFAST (AP) — Two gunmen shot dead a Roman Catholic man, narrowly missing his five-year-old daughter who was playing on his knee while the family wrapped Christmas presents.

The Ulster Volunteer Force, an outlawed Protestant paramilitary group, in a message to news organisations claimed responsibility for the shooting. The group said the man was a member of Irish Republican Army (IRA).

News media identified the man as Martin Lavery, 40, Press Association, the British national news agency, said Mr. Lavery's family denied he belonged to the IRA.

The killing was the latest in a

pattern of stepped up attacks against Catholics by the two main Protestant, or loyalist, groups the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association.

Later, a small bomb exploded outside a bank in downtown Belfast late Sunday causing slight damage and no injuries, police said. Before the explosion, the IRA warned that bombs had been placed outside three banks.

In a statement on the Belfast shooting, the Royal Ulster Constabulary said the gunmen escaped in a stolen car, which was later found abandoned.

Police said the gunmen burst into the family's living room after

getting through a back door into the home in the Catholic Crumlin Road district.

They opened fire, with bullets whizzing past the child, in front of the man's wife and several other family members. The man, who had four children, was shot in the head and chest. He died on the way to hospital.

For the first time since 1975, Protestant gunmen have killed more people than the IRA — at least 32 to the IRA's 26.

In recent interviews with the Associated Press, loyalist commanders claimed that the killings were aimed at punishing Catholics in proportion to IRA activity.

Russian minister offers to resign

MOSCOW (R) — Social Security Minister Ella Pamiylova has offered to leave the Russian government, the first cabinet member of former Acting Minister Yegor Gaidar to ask to quit, Interfax News Agency said Monday.

It said Ms. Pamiylova, the only woman in Mr. Gaidar's cabinet, had written to Mr. Yeltsin asking to be relieved of her post. She gave no reasons for her request.

She made her name in the old Soviet parliament arguing against the "undesired privileges" enjoyed by deputies.

President Boris Yeltsin has been holding talks with Mr. Gaidar's successor, industrialist Viktor Chernomyrdin, about the composition of the new Russian government.

Mr. Chernomyrdin has said he will keep the core of Mr. Gaidar's team intact but has signalled he will change some elements of policy.

Interfax said Mr. Yeltsin had not yet accepted Ms. Pamiylova's resignation.

A veil of secrecy hung over the shape of Russia's next government Monday, with officials un-

able to say if crisis talks between President Yeltsin and his new prime minister had brought concrete results.

Officials at two government press offices and a Yeltsin spokesman could not even say if Mr. Yeltsin had met Mr. Chernomyrdin Monday for a second day of talks.

Mr. Gaidar was ousted a week ago after opposition from the conservative supreme legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies. The new prime minister was previously in charge of the energy sector.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said Sunday that Mr. Chernomyrdin has been given until Tuesday to announce his new government.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said he was not yet ready to put forward a policy programme, but indicated that there would be some changes. "This is the main question... some positions have to be specified, some directions may have to be reconsidered."

The new prime minister reiterated his commitment to reform, but warned there could be no

quick fix for the economy.

"I would be naive on my part... if I said that I had a solution ready on how to do this," he told Commonwealth Television. "This is not an enterprise, not simply a collective. It is a whole country."

Meanwhile, liberal Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev sounded a warning Sunday of the threat of a conservative resurgence in Russia that could lead it back to confrontation with the West.

"There is a real danger in foreign policy of a return to the siege fortress (mentality)," he said in a reference to the former Soviet ideology which divided the world into opposing Communist and capitalist camps.

"The Soviet Union was not a great country. It was just a military superpower. Russia will be a great country only as long as it is democratic," he told a political meeting in Moscow.

His comments to a congress of the pro-reform Democratic Russia Movement echoed a mock cold war speech he delivered in Stockholm last week that stunned the world.

New Delhi gives in to Hindu party's demands

NEW DELHI (AP) — The government gave in to demands from a Hindu radical party Monday, easing a confrontation in parliament that had stalled a no-confidence vote against Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) called for the vote last week after nationwide Hindu-Muslim clashes that left 1,200 people dead and 5,000 injured.

On Dec. 6, thousands of Hindu extremists razed a 16th century mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya, touching off the week long violence.

Earlier Monday BJP legislators demanded the presence in the house of their leader Atal Behari Vajpayee, and parliament was adjourned until noon.

Mr. Vajpayee started a hunger strike after police Sunday used wooden clubs and tear gas to disperse a rally of thousands of Hindu activists protesting the dismissal of three BJP-led state governments, the arrests of two top BJP leaders and an ongoing crackdown on three outlawed Hindu radical groups.

Quake hits Indonesian island, Northern Australia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A strong earthquake Monday shook the Moluccas Island of Ambon in the Banda Sea and parts of Northern Australia, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Prih Harjadi of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said the earthquake measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale. The Australian Seismological Centre measured the tremor at 7.3.

Mr. Harjadi said the epicentre of the quake was 201 miles (450 kilometres) southeast of Ambon and it occurred at 3:52 a.m. (2052 GMT) at a depth of 62.5 miles (100 kilometres) below sea level in the Banda Sea.

Meanwhile another earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale was recorded in the Indian Ocean at a depth of 43 miles (69 kilometres), 87.5 miles (140 kilometres) southwest of the tourist island of Bali.

The quake, at 10:21 a.m. (0321 GMT), was not felt in Bali, according to Indonesian officials.

The quakes occurred nine days after a powerful earthquake measuring 6.8 caused massive tidal waves that killed an estimated 2,500 people in eastern Indonesia.

But the depth of Monday's quakes meant there was little chance of similar tidal waves, said Kevin McCue, head of the Australian Seismology Unit.

An earthquake of 5 can cause considerable damage in populated areas, while a quake of magnitude 7 is considered a major earthquake, capable of widespread, heavy damage.

Roh: Presidential elections calmest, fairest in history

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-Woo said Monday voting for a new president was the fairest and calmest in South Korean history and has brought democracy a step closer to full maturity.

He urged the nation to help President Elect Kim Young-Sam create national reconciliation, adding that "without stability there will be no change in the reform we all need to make."

The remarks, made on nationwide television, were the first by Mr. Roh since Friday's balloting and emphasised the president elect's campaign theme, a call for stability.

They also reflect the pride Koreans have in holding a peaceful campaign and election.

Mr. Roh met with the president elect later Monday and assured him his administration will cooperate for a smooth transition of power. Mr. Kim, a former opposition leader, merged his party with Mr. Roh's ruling party in 1990.

Mr. Kim's victory was seen as a strong vote by South Korea's growing middle class for stability in a time of economic concern over the country's growth, which dipped in the last quarter to 3.1 per cent.

He was expected to continue the policies of Mr. Roh, and said he would move quickly to reaffirm strong ties with traditional allies like the United States and Japan and with newer allies China, Russia and Eastern Europe.

The 65-year-old Kim is the first civilian president of South Korea since 1961, ending 32 years of

military dominated regimes or rule by former generals.

The 28-day campaign period and the election were the calmest since the founding of the nation in 1948. Despite mudslinging and charges of vote-rigging, there was no violence.

"The elections were the calmest and fairest in our history," said Mr. Roh, who in September resigned from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party to ensure neutrality of government officials.

"Our democracy has developed one step higher," he said. "Our democracy is now deeply rooted enough to withstand any challenges."

Final figures for Friday's balloting released over the weekend show Kim Young-Sam won 41.1 per cent, or 9.97 million votes, of the 24 million votes cast. He took office in February, succeeding Mr. Roh, who by law cannot succeed himself.

Mr. Kim Deo-Jung, 67, the main opposition leader and a longtime political rival of the winner, received 8.04 million votes, or 33.4 per cent. Billionaire Chung Ju Yung, the founder of the Hyundai conglomerate, received 3.88 million votes, or 16.1 per cent of the total.

Meanwhile, the Hyundai Group, which is at odds with the government because of its backing of its founder for president, made moves Monday to reconcile.

Mr. Chung Se-Yung, chairman of Hyundai, the nation's largest

conglomerate, appealed to the president-elect to help the group to become the engine of South Korea's economic growth again.

Mr. Chung's comments, which came in a meeting with group officials, followed the defeat of his older brother, Chung Ju Yung, in Friday's presidential votes.

Chung Ju-Yung, who founded the \$50 billion Hyundai Group, has been under government scrutiny for allegedly using Hyundai's money and manpower for his campaign.

At least 13 Hyundai officials have been arrested and about 50 others were being searched on charges of illegally campaigning for Chung Ju-Yung.

"Hyundai will never be engaged in political waves again," said Mr. Chung Se-Yung, who took over the group's chairmanship from his older brother late last year.

The Hyundai Group, which manufactures Hyundai cars, is the nation's largest conglomerate whose annual sales account for 11 per cent of South Korea's gross national product.

Meanwhile, an official North Korean newspaper Monday criticised the outcome of presidential elections in South Korea as being contrary to the people's will and manipulated by the United States.

The report in the state-run Rodong Sinmun was the first official comment by the North on the elections won Saturday by Mr. Kim Young-Sam.

"It was the aim sought by the United States in the 'presidential election' to give an impression of 'freshness' to the people by replacing Roh with Kim, while leaving its colonial repressive system intact," said the report, which was broadcast by the Korean Central News Agency.

The new government is the brainchild of the United States," it said. "The South Korean people will see its true colours without difficulty."

South Korea Monday accused North Korea of unjustifiably cancelling inter-Korea prime ministers' talks.

The ninth round of inter-Korea prime ministers' talks was to have begun in Seoul Monday but the North called them off to protest Seoul's plans to hold annual military exercises with the United States.

South Korea and the United States cancelled this year's "Team Spirit," but have recently decided to resume them next spring to pressure Pyongyang to resolve nuclear disputes.

"Your act of unilaterally cancelling mutually agreed upon meeting schedules cannot be justified under any circumstances," South Korean Prime Minister Hyun Soong Jong said in a telephone message to the North.

In the message to his Northern counterpart, Kang Sung San, Hyun said South Korea will continue the military exercises as long as suspicion about the North's nuclear arms development persists.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Romania mourns revolutionary victims

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania held low-key ceremonies Monday to mark the third anniversary of the revolution that ended Stalinist rule, but many stayed away calling for the government to explain how over 1,000 people died during the revolt. "We feel very disappointed. So many people died for freedom in 1989, but the truth about those killings is still unknown," Ovidiu Popescu, leader of the Dec. 21 Association, told journalists. "Our feeling is that the new authorities are deliberately hiding the truth about the revolution," he said, and reiterated a widely-held view that the spontaneous youth-led revolution was hijacked by reformist Communist officials. The Dec. 21 Association was formed by rebels who took to the streets of the capital three years ago to protest against Nicolae Ceausescu's administration and to battle against the dictator's heavily-armed security forces.

S. Africa to restructure military

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The government said Monday it wants a major shake up of the military following the dismissal of six generals implicated in a political dirty tricks campaign. Defence Minister Gene Louw said military intelligence would have to be restructured to ensure its reliability. He gave no details, but said the military would have to end all irregular activity. "The most effective and improved restructuring of the defence force's intelligence gathering action... will have to be looked into immediately," he said. The military was stunned when Mr. De Klerk announced without warning Saturday that an investigation had revealed military intelligence was waging a clandestine campaign against opposition groups such as the African National Congress. Mr. De Klerk fired 16 military personnel, including six generals, and put another seven soldiers on compulsory leave pending further investigation.

Ramos is determined to end rebellions

MANILA (AP) — President Fidel Ramos said Monday he was determined to end the Communist, Muslim and military rebellions to restore stability and steer the country toward economic progress. "Political stability and civic order we need urgently as requirements for restoring our economy to the path of growth," Gen. Ramos told ceremonies marking the 57th anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Gen. Ramos said the National Unification Commission, which he appointed after taking office June 30, was making progress in arranging peace talks with Muslim secessionists and military dissidents responsible for the seven coup attempts against his predecessor, Corason Aquino. Gen. Ramos said contacts with leaders of the largely dormant Muslim insurgency were continuing and an "honourable and workable solution" with military dissidents "is within reach." Of the more serious Communist rebellion, Gen. Ramos said the 23 years insurgency "also has gone on too long and has cost us too much in blood and treasure."

Colin

Major: Monarchy will survive horrible year

LONDON (R) — The monarchy may have a year but it will emerge and endure because it is the heart of the nation, Prime Minister John Major said. "I don't think the monarchy is threatened," Major said on his way to London from a trip to the United States. Major 21 announced the return to the throne Prince Charles and his wife Princess Diana, who Queen Elizabeth called her "Anne" (horrible year). But view with the British Royal Family, Mr. Major believed the queen family would prevail in the end and essential landscape. "No one really wants to rid the monarchy, regard difficulties, he added no enthusiasm amongst try for anything other continuation of a monarchy... I detect a change," Mr. Major said.

Pakistani women gives birth to sextuplets

ISLAMABAD (R) — A year-old wife of a Pakistani recently gave birth to six boys and three girls, a total of nine semi-official PPI news said. The woman had no children from her 14-year marriage and considered a "social outcast" in her southern Sindh province not allow her to attend or other functions. "Villagers, especially now consider her lucky and fortunate woman locality," PPI said.

Gunmen clean the jailbreak restaurant

CAPE TOWN (R) — Gunmen robbed a jewellery and handbag store in a town restaurant on Sunday night on Sunday night of the restaurant.

Disney stepping film production in 1993

BURBANK, California — Walt Disney Studios production next year will be at least 30 films more movies than in 1992, officials said. "We have creative and creative talent more, and we've seen the appetite continue to grow," Dick Cook, president of Buena Vista Pictures, said. The studio released this year, up from 19 in 1991, prior to the 1988 Michael Eisner and John Michael Katzenbach duo produced about annually. The new production was based on the studio's deal with independent Disney films on the market giant's bottom line. Cook, for the company, ended Sept. 30. Disney reported operating of \$500.2 million, up from \$318.1 million last year. There were no plans to the studio's management.

Man suspected of burning town straw goats

GAVLE, Sweden (R) — A man suspected of setting fire to straw goats which were Christmas in Sweden, was charged with causing property damage, police said. Gavle's (40-foot) Julbock, the world, was destroyed on Dec. 5. A rebuilt, at a cost of 100,000 crowns (\$14,500), only to flames again on Dec. 22-year-old man from Gavle been detained and charged shortly. "The straw goats were the same man will be charged with damage to a third, straw goat in Gavle's Christmas and with arson for setting fire to an apartment way, Mr. Norlin said. Straw effigies have been burning targeted for pyromaniacs and only twice in 27 years. Julbock survived until the Year. It was the third time had detained a suspected arsonist. Businessmen who pay cost of the Julbock said they had no funds to build a third straw goat.